

Case 2601

***Filimanus* Myers, 1936 (Osteichthyes, Perciformes): proposed designation of *Filimanus perplexa* Feltes, 1991 as the type species**

Ross M. Feltes

Museum of Biological Diversity, The Ohio State University, 1315 Kinnear Road, Columbus, Ohio 43212-1192, U.S.A.

Abstract. The purpose of this application is the designation of *Filimanus perplexa* Feltes, 1991 as the type species of the polynemid genus *Filimanus* Myers, 1936. This is the taxonomic species misidentified by Myers as *Polynemus melanochir* Valenciennes, 1831; retention of the latter nominal species as its type would render *Filimanus* a junior subjective synonym of *Polynemus* Linnaeus, 1758, and a new generic name would be required for species currently placed in *Filimanus*.

1. Myers (1936, p. 379) established the genus *Filimanus* (family POLYNEMIDAE, the threadfins) with a diagnosis based on a single specimen (USNM 72742) in the U.S. National Museum of Natural History, Washington. He identified the specimen as being *Polynemus melanochir* Valenciennes, 1831 (p. 513), and this nominal species is thus the type of *Filimanus* by monotypy. The description by Valenciennes is brief but the characters and comparisons used in his account are diagnostic. The original description was based on a drawing sent by Major Finlayson from Sumatra. Examination of this drawing in the Bibliothèque Centrale, Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris, has made it quite clear to which taxonomic species Valenciennes applied the name *P. melanochir*. The specimen used by Myers in his description of *Filimanus* was misidentified and belongs to a then undescribed species (see para. 4). The case is referred to the Commission under Article 70b of the Code.

2. The use of the generic name *Polynemus* Linnaeus, 1758 (p. 317) has been quite inconsistent and often non-monophyletic (see Myers, 1936; Feltes, 1991). Myers's perception of the species before him as a separate genus is entirely reasonable, as I have discussed (Feltes, 1991, pp. 304-305).

3. *Polynemus melanochir* Valenciennes, 1831 is a valid species. My unpublished studies show it is probably a sister taxon to *P. paradiseus* Linnaeus, 1758 (p. 317) which was designated as the type species of *Polynemus* in Opinion 93 (October 1926), and is certainly congeneric. If *P. melanochir* were retained as the type species of *Filimanus*, regardless of misidentification, it would be necessary to provide a new generic name for the specimen examined by Myers, as well as other species (Feltes, 1991). This would not only add another name to the literature, but contribute to the already confused state of *Polynemus* by adding *Filimanus* to its synonymy. The name *Filimanus* has been used as valid in the following representative publications: De Sylva (1984, p. 540), Gloerfelt-Tarp & Kailola (1984, pp. 231, 347), Nelson (1984, p. 325) and Eschmeyer (1990, p. 151). I have a forthcoming paper (Feltes, 1993, in press) that includes a discussion of *Filimanus*.

4. In a revision of *Filimanus* I redescribed the species misidentified by Myers (and others) as *P. melanochir*, and gave it the name *Filimanus perplexa* Feltes, 1991 (p. 307). The holotype, from Bali, is specimen BMNH 1988.4.6.1. in the Natural History Museum, London, and the specimen (USNM 72742) from Java used by Myers (1936) is a paratype.

5. The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is accordingly asked:

- (1) to use its plenary powers to set aside all previous fixations of type species for the nominal genus *Filimanus* Myers, 1936, and to designate *Filimanus perplexa* Feltes, 1991 as the type species;
- (2) to place on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology the name *Filimanus* Myers, 1936 (gender: feminine), type species by designation in (1) above *Filimanus perplexa* Feltes, 1991;
- (3) to place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology the name *perplexa* Feltes, 1991, as published in the binomen *Filimanus perplexa* (specific name of the type species of *Filimanus* Myers, 1936).

References

- De Sylva, D.P. 1984. Polynemoidei: development and relationships. Ontogeny and systematics of fishes. *American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists Special Publications*, 1: 540–541.
- Eschmeyer, W.N. 1990. *Catalog of the genera of recent fishes*. 697 pp. California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco.
- Feltes, R.M. 1991. Revision of the polynemid genus *Filimanus*, with the description of two new species. *Copeia*, 1991(2): 302–322.
- Feltes, R.M. 1993 (in press). *Parapolynemus*, new genus for the polynemid fish previously known as *Polynemus verekeri*. *Copeia*, 1993(1).
- Gloerfelt-Tarp, T. & Kailola, P.J. 1984. *Trawled fishes of southern Indonesia and northwestern Australia*. 406 pp. Australian Development Assistance Bureau, Sydney.
- Linnaeus, C. 1758. *Systema Naturae*, Ed. 10, vol. 1. 824 pp. Salvii, Holmiae.
- Myers, G.S. 1936. A new polynemid fish collected in the Sadong River, Sarawak, by Dr William T. Hornaday, with notes on the genera of Polynemidae. *Journal of the Washington Academy of Sciences*, 26(9): 376–382.
- Nelson, J.S. 1984. *Fishes of the world*, Ed. 2. 523 pp. Wiley-Interscience, New York.
- Valenciennes, A. 1831. Des Polynèmes. Pp. 512–519 in Cuvier, G.L.C.F.D. & Valenciennes, A., *Histoire naturelle des poissons*, vol. 7. 531 pp. Levrault, Paris.